

Message Text

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11

ACTION FBO-05

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 /016 W

----- 085949

R 020952Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8822

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AFBO

SUBJECT: NOB BEIRUT PROJECT SUPERVISOR

REFS: (A) STATE 046489, (B) STATE 017492, (C) BEIRUT 0604, (D) BEIRUT 0094, (E) BEIRUT 0048

1. REF B STATED THAT DEPT PLANS TO TERMINATE CONTRACT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF NEW CHANCERY BUILDING. REF A INQUIRED WHETHER PROJECT MANAGER, BRUCE SMITH, MAY RETURN BEIRUT. SMITH'S RETURN IS APPROVED, BUT POST WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHETHER SMITH'S RETURN SIGNALS A RESUMPTION OF CONSTRUCTION, OR WHETHER HE'S COMING TO HANDLE DETAILS WHICH WOULD BE ENTAILED IN TERMINATION OF THE CONTRACT. IF CONSTRUCTION IS TO CONTINUE, THAT DECISION IS APPLAUDED. IF THE PLAN TO TERMINATE IS STILL UNDER CONSIDERATION, THE POST WISHES TO REITERATE ITS ADVOCACY (REF E) THAT CONSTRUCTION BE CONTINUED.

2. THE FBO SHOULD PERHAPS KNOW, THOUGH, THAT A TRANSMIGRATION OF CHRISTIANS, MOSLEMS AND PALESTINIANS DURING THE CIVIL UNREST HERE HAS HAD THE RESULT OF LEAVING THE CHANCERY SITE DOMINATED, IF NOT COMPLETELY SURROUNDED, BY POORER MOSLEMS AND PALESTINIANS WHO SETTLED IN THE AREA AFTER BEING DRIVEN FROM THEIR FORMER ENCAMPMENTS. WHETHER THIS SETTLEMENT WILL ASSUME SOME DEGREE OF PERMANENCY (IT COULD) OR WHETHER IT WILL PROVE TO BE A PASSING THING IS NOT KNOWN AND DIFFICULT TO PREDICT, BUT THE VALUE OF THE PROPERTY WILL DIMINSH SHOULD IT PROVE TO BE PERMANENT, AND ACCESSIBILITY IN THE EVENT OF ANOTHER CONFESSIONALIST FLARE-UP COULD BE A PROBLEM.

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3. WE DO NOT WANT TO OVEREMPHASIZE ABOVE, HOWEVER, SINCE

IN FACT WE ARE COMMITTED TO NEW BUILDING AT THAT SITE WITH NO
PRACTICAL ALTERNATIVE IN SIGHT.

4. THE DEPT'S REPOSE AND INDICATION OF CURRENT PLANS
WOULD BE APPRECIATED.
LAMBRAKIS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BEIRUT01917
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760078-1076
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t197603106/aaaadpao.tel
Line Count: 67
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION FBO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 46489, 76 STATE 17492, 76 BEIRUT 604
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 JUN 2004 by MartinML>; APPROVED <07 JUL 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NOB BEIRUT PROJECT SUPERVISOR
TAGS: AFSP, LE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006